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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. S63.2N-5605-US05

Amendments To The Claims:

Claims 1-8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Previously presented) A stent having a plurality of segments which form a tubular body, the body having a circumference and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern and containing alternating valley portions and peak portions,

a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements to form a plurality of cells which are bounded at a first end by a portion of one annular element, at a second end by a portion of another annular element and two connecting members which extend between the one annular element and the other annular element, the first end offset in a circumferential direction from the second end relative to the circumference of the body,

a first segment of the stent having less compression resistance than a second segment of the stent wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the connecting members are connected to the peak portions and valley portions of the adjacent annular members.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the longitudinal flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the difference in flexibility between the first and second segments is a difference in the radial flexibilities in the first and second segments.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9, wherein the first and second segments are spaced apart longitudinally along the stent.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of Nitinol.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 9 wherein the annular elements and connecting members are made of a shape memory alloy.

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Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A stent having a plurality of segments which form a tubular body, the body having a circumference and comprising:

a plurality of annular elements, each annular element having a compressed state and an expanded state, each annular element formed in a generally serpentine wave pattern having a plurality of peaks and troughs,

a plurality of connecting members connecting adjacent annular elements from peak to trough to form a plurality of cells, each cell having an area; each connecting member having a first end and a second end, the second end offset in a circumferential direction from the first end relative to the circumference of the body.

a first segment of the stent having less compression resistance than a second segment of the stent wherein the first segment is located at an end of the stent.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A stent having a tubular body, the body having a circumference, wherein the stent comprises: comprising

a plurality of serpentine bands, wherein each band has alternating peaks and valleys and connectors, adjacent serpentine bands connected by connecting members, the stent having a plurality of cells, each cell defined by two ~~connectors~~ connecting members and portions of two different serpentine bands, one of the portions being proximal to the other portion, the peaks of the proximal portion being offset circumferentially from the troughs of the distal portion relative to the circumference of the body.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is made from Nitinol.

Claim 19. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the stent is made of a self-expandable material.

Claim 20. (Previously presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the serpentine bands include bands of a shorter length and bands of a longer length, the longer length bands located at first and second ends of the stent.

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Remarks

This Amendment After Final and Request for Continued Examination is in response to the Office Action dated October 11, 2006, wherein claims 17-20 were objected to; and claims 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,902,317 to Kleshinski et al (Kleshinski).

The following comments are presented in the same order and with paragraph headings corresponding to the Final Office Action, with additional comments directed to the Advisory Action.

Claim Objections

In the Final Office Action claims 17-20 were objected to. As provided above, claim 17 has been amended to provide proper antecedent bases for the terms "the peaks" and "the troughs". No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

In the Final Office Action claims 9-20 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Kleshinski.

Instant claims 9 and 16 both describe a stent wherein a plurality of cells, each of which have first and second ends that are offset in a circumferential direction. Applicants have amended the instant claims to ensure that it is absolutely clear that the "circumferentially offset" aspect described in the claims is in regard to the circumference of the stent body...not the possible circumference of any cell opening. As has been previously mentioned in the prosecution of the present Application the opposing ends of ANY and all cells of Kleshinski are not circumferentially offset in this manner.

Similarly, claim 17 has been amended to clarify that the peaks of the proximal portion are offset circumferentially from the troughs of the distal portion relative to the circumference of the body. Kleshinski fails to teach or suggest a stent having peaks and troughs which are circumferentially offset in this manner.